



7-point plan for water conservation

1

Seek commitment and leadership from senior management

Commitment and leadership from senior management is essential to ensure a successful water conservation program. To achieve real results management must take the lead in water conservation and set an example for their employees. They need to encourage changes in processes and in behaviour to achieve sustainable water savings.

2

Appoint a water conservation manager

Organisations that appoint a person to manage their water conservation achieve better results. A person needs to have the dedicated responsibility for water conservation although it does not need to be their sole task.

3

Understand your systems to determine where water is used within your facilities

Determine where and how water is used within your business. Carry out an audit of water usage, develop a balance between water entering and leaving the plant and identify the opportunities for water savings.

Identify and quantify the hidden costs of water – Water costs are not only associated with supply and subsequent discharge to sewer. Saving water can lead to reductions in electricity, gas, labour and chemical costs and the identification of redundant water-using equipment.

4

Identify the opportunities to save water

Think laterally. Some of the simplest ideas may be the most cost effective. Water conservation is not just about large-scale technical solutions. Small changes can make a big difference.

5

Set a realistic conservation goal

It is important to have realistic conservation targets so that everyone can measure the gains. Businesses that conduct a water audit can typically identify savings targets of 20 per cent or more. Another way of setting a target is to benchmark against key indicators such as kilolitres per tonne or kilolitres per square meter annually.

6

Develop a conservation strategy

A conservation strategy needs to use the following principles:

- **Avoid** – Avoid using water where possible.
- **Reduce** – Where water use cannot be avoided reduce the amount of water used. Reducing leaks is the most cost efficient option to minimise water consumption. Make identifying leaks part of your regular maintenance program.
- **Reuse** – If you can't reduce the amount of water being used in a process try to use that water more than once.
- **Recycle** – Seek an alternative water source such as treated wastewater from another process or treated sewage effluent where health guidelines allow.

7

Involve your employees

Behavioural change will lead to sustainable water savings. Increase water conservation awareness through signage, newsletters and posters. Tell staff why and how they can help both your business and the environment. Hold a competition to generate water-saving ideas and reward staff for doing the right thing.

For more information visit www.sydneywater.com.au